(d) whether the talks held between the Government and foreign dignitary had any positive results; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) to (e) The President of Iran, H. E. Akbar Hashemi Rafsanjani, paid a State visit to India from 17-19 April, 1995. During his stay in India. President Rafsanjani called on President, held wide-ranging discussions with Prime Minister addressed a special meeting of Parliament, and met the External Affairs Minister. Delegation level talks were also held. The itinerary of visit included functions during which President Rafsanjani met several public figures. During a 6-hour visit to Lucknow on 18 April 1995, the Iranian President also met the Governor and Chief Minister of Uttar Pradesh.

The discussions at the governmental level focussed on bilateral relations between India and Iran and extended to an exchange of views on the regional and international situation, especially the possibilities of enhanced cooperation in international and regional forums. The two sides agreed to work together to strengthen peace and stability in the region, and emphasised that terrorism is an impediment in the realisation of this objective.

The discussions covered the range of bilateral economic, technical and cultural cooperation. Particular attention was paid to cooperation in respect of upcoming railway projects as well as in the field of oil and gas. A Memorandum of Understanding was signed on the setting up of a joint venture between the national oil companies of the two countries. The two sides also agreed to expand people-to-people contacts and to sustain the high-level exchanges which would further strengthen the positive trends of bilateral relations in the recent period. The two sides agreed to expand bilateral cooperation into new areas. During the visit, Memoranda of Understanding were signed on Cooperation in Tourism, Telecommunications and Postal Services; Environment; and Prevention of Drug Trafficking. A Cultural Exchange Programme was also concluded.

During the period of the Iranian President's visit, the Foreign Ministers of India, Iran and Turkmenistan met in New Delhi and discussed the issues of regional cooperation with focus on trade, transit and transport between the Central Asian region, Iran and India. A tripartite Memorandum of Understanding on International Road and Rail Transport and Transit between the Governments of India, Iran and Turkmenistan was signed. The Foreign Ministers agreed that a full-fledged agreement in this sphere will be negotiated and concluded within the next six months.

पाकिस्तान द्वारा भारत विरोधी प्रचार

4548. प्रो. विजय कुमार मल्होत्रा : क्या विदेश मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) क्या सरकार को इस बात की जानकारी है कि पाकिस्तान विदेशों में भारत के विरुद्ध विषैला प्रचार कर रहा है ; और

(ख) यदि हां, तो भारत सरकार पाकिस्तान के इस दुष्प्रचार का मुकाबला करने के लिए क्या कदम उठा रही है ?

विदेश मंत्रालय में राज्य मंत्री (श्री सलमान खुर्शीद): (क) जी, हां ।

(ख) पाकिस्तान के भारत-विरोधी दुष्प्रचार का विरोध करना एक सतत

प्रक्रिया है पाकिस्तान के झूठे और दुष्प्रेरित प्रचार का विरोध करने के लिए तत्काल, व्यापक तथा प्रभावशाली कार्यवाही की जाती है । निर्णायकों ; प्रचार–माध्यमों ; और अन्य देशों की सरकारों को विदेश स्थत भारत के मिशनों तथा साथ ही भारत में स्थित इन देशों के मिशनों के माध्यम से नियमित आधार पर वास्तविक तथ्यपरक सूचना दी जाती है। इन देशों की सरकारों को भारत की यात्रा पर आए उच्च स्तरीय शिष्टमण्डलों के माध्यम से तथा इन देशों में यात्रा पर गए उच्च स्तरीय शिष्टमण्डलों के माध्यम से भी जानकारी दी जाती है।

Visit of Defence Minister of China

4549. SHRI GUNDAPPA KORWAR: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Defence Minister of China visited India recently;

(b) if so, the leaders whom he met and issues discussed during his visit; and

(c) the outcome of the visit?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI R. L. BHATIA): (a) Defence Minister of China General Chi Haotian visited India from September 7—12, 1994.

(b) and (c) During the visit the Chinese Defence Minister called on the Vice-President, Prime Minister and held talks with Commerce Minister, who was the host and the leader of the Indian delegation. In Bombay the Chinese Defence Minister met the Chief Minister of Maharashtra. The two sides discussed the improvement in bilateral relations and defence exchanges between the two countries. Both sides expressed the intention to work for the implementation of the agreement on Maintenance of Peace and Tranquillity along the Line of Actual Control in the India-China Border Areas signed during Prime Minister's visit to China in September, 1993. Both sides also agreed that the process of increasing defence exchanges has contributed to the building of mutual trust and confidence.

Statement by former Pak Prime Minister on NARCO Terrorism

4550. SHRIMATI VEENA VERMA:

SHRI SUSHILKUMAR SAMBHAJIRAO SHINDE:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) Whether Government's attention has been drawn to the reported statement of Shri Nawaz Sharif, former Prime Minister of Pakistan as quoted in the Hindustan Times of September 13, 1994, alleging that in 1991 his approval as the then Prime Minister of Pakistan was sought by The Intelligence Chief General Assad Durrani, to sell heroin to pay for the country's covert military operations, including the funding of ISI Operations which was then afflicted with shortage of funds;

(b) if so, whether Government have any information or have probed into the legitimacy of the heroin stock and its sale for funding ISI operations by Pakistan; and

(c) whether Government have taken note of the nexus between ISI operations and heroin trade or smuggling; if so, what is Government's information in this regard and the reaction thereto?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) Government are aware that Pakistan is aiding and abetting cross-border terrorism directed against India out of finances from different sources, including funds generated through trafficking in drugs and narcotics.